

This legislation confronts a clear need and represents careful—but incomplete—efforts to create a narrow program with appropriate congressional oversight. Specifically, this bill allows for broad carveouts to the Wiretap Act, and it is not clear this broad authority is necessary. Additionally, the privacy protections could be interpreted as applying only to information gathered between the drone and the drone operator and not applying to additional information gathered, collected, stored, or analyzed while initially detecting drones. Interpreted this way, the bill represents a massive expansion of the government's warrantless wiretapping authority.

I have received assurances from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and my colleagues from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to work together to address my concerns. Despite that, I voted against this bill while looking forward to remedying this quickly in perfecting legislation. Similarly, I am looking forward to published guidance from the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security making clear that all information gathered, stored, analyzed, or collected under this act are subject to the privacy protections.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate has just cleared the most sweeping package of bills to address the opioid epidemic to date. These fresh policies will make a difference on the ground. In my view, there are promising ideas dealing with some key important priorities: helping people steer clear of addiction from the get-go and knocking down barriers that prevent people from getting help when they need it.

These policies were crafted on a bipartisan basis in practically half of the committees in Congress. The Finance Committee passed its own bill in June with more than two dozen policies that at least one member from each side of the aisle sponsored.

For example, Senator BENNET led the way on a provision that will help root out fraud by requiring prescriptions to be sent electronically from doctors to pharmacies. It is too easy to fake a script on old-fashioned paper and get a bottle of pills, so this policy would make electronic prescriptions the norm in Medicare's drug program.

Senators BROWN and STABENOW have important provisions that will help make sure new mothers and infants have access to the care and treatment they need. Senator MENENDEZ and Senator SCOTT worked on provisions that will help parents get treatment and find smart, safe ways to reunify families.

Since homelessness and addiction often go hand-in-hand, Senator CARDIN and I have worked on a bipartisan provision that is about uncovering innova-

tive opportunities in Medicaid to provide housing-related supports and services to individuals struggling with substance use disorders including for those transitioning out of residential treatment and for those who are experiencing homelessness.

Senators WARNER, CARDIN, and THUNE have also brought forward an important provision that would expand access to telehealth services in Medicare for older Americans struggling with substance use disorders. That will expand this promising technology so seniors who don't live in rural areas can also remotely connect with their doctors to get substance use disorder treatment. When it comes to ensuring a substance use disorder is being correctly managed, frequent and convenient check-ups can make all the difference in the world.

These are only a few of the ideas the Finance Committee has been able to bring forward in this bipartisan package.

This legislation represents a measured but important step towards ensuring Federal and State policies are working towards a resolution of this crisis, not making it worse. I view this legislation as an early step in dealing with the epidemic. Nearly 70,000 Americans are dying every year due to drug overdoses. This is one of the most serious issues of our time, and the work will need to continue, especially when it comes to identifying how the crisis began in the first place and holding those responsible accountable.

Congress is going to keep at it until pain policy in this country is back on track. I think of how this has progressed as a "prescription pendulum." Years ago, when I was the director of the Oregon Grey Panthers, I would get calls from the families of older people coping with pain. They would say, "My dad is 93 years old, he's in agony, but he can't get a prescription because they say he'll get addicted."

More recently, the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. If you broke a bone, came down with a bout of back pain, or had a root canal, getting a script for a bottle of opioids became routine. Millions of Americans got hooked. No community has been spared from the consequences—mothers, fathers, babies, sons, daughters, grandmothers, relatives, friends, co-workers—I would challenge any American to claim someone in their social network has not felt the effects that opioid addiction have had.

Congress has a responsibility to stay on this issue until no family is torn apart just because of a misused or inappropriate prescription after an accident, until no parent has to spend day after day wondering if they will receive a call that their child has overdosed again, until no baby has to spend days or even weeks after they are born recovering from opioid withdrawal. The bill before the Senate today will start to turn the tide, and I am proud so many of my colleagues supported it.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the October 1, 2018, vote on motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 302, long-term FAA reauthorization. I would have voted yea.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2018

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on S. 994, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2018.

First, I want to thank Senator HATCH and the other supporters of the bill. In particular, I would also like to thank the House sponsors of the bill, Representatives KUSTOFF and KILMER, for their work in shepherding it through that chamber.

I am glad to see this bill finally enacted into law.

Early last year, a string of bomb threats to synagogues, mosques, and other religious affiliated institutions, such as Jewish community centers, threatened this Nation and one of its core constitutional tenants: the free exercise of religion. In the wake of these threats, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on religious hate crimes.

Just 1 month after that hearing, two Islamic centers in northern California were attacked during Ramadan. At the largest Sacramento mosque, a burned Quran was also filled with bacon and handcuffed to a fence. That mosque alone has been targeted multiple times.

Despicable acts like these have become far too common. The statistics are startling. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, from 2014 to 2016, anti-Muslim hate crimes increased 99.4 percent, from 154 reported incidents to 307 reported incidents. There has also been a rise in anti-Semitic incidents. The Anti-Defamation League reported 1,986 anti-Semitic incidents nationally in 2017, compared to 942 in 2015, an increase of 110 percent. We heard testimony in the Judiciary Committee that this increase came after the dangerous rhetoric that was used during the 2016 election cycle.

Unfortunately, this sort of persistent hateful rhetoric continues to plague our Nation and our political discourse. This was made manifest during a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville last summer that culminated in a young woman losing her life.

The clear lesson is that all of us must strongly condemn hateful acts and state in no uncertain terms that they have no place in our country. This legislation is one way for us to do that. This bill updates the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 to specifically prohibit threats of force made against religious real property, including the property of religiously affiliated institutions.

This update is critical because, while the current law prohibits the destruction of religious real property, it did not previously specify that threats against religious real property, such as threats of violence against Jewish community centers, are also hate crimes.

Finally, while this bill addresses religious hate crimes, we must remember that the motivations behind hate crimes extend far beyond religion. It does not matter if it is a crime based on one's religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or any other element of our shared humanity.

I am hopeful that the Judiciary Committee can continue to work together to protect all victims of hate, regardless of whom they are, whom they love, where they worship, or where they are from. Thank you.

HARD RELEASES OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, through the Wilderness Act of 1965, Congress reserves the authority to designate as Wilderness Areas certain Federal lands with remarkable natural and ecological values. Over the last 53 years, the Wilderness Act has been referred to as the gold standard of conservation, providing the highest level of protections for some of America's most treasured public lands. In addition to congressionally designated Wilderness Areas, the Wilderness Act gave the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to study and evaluate the wilderness characteristics of public lands under their respective jurisdictions. Once identified, the Forest Service manages lands with wilderness potential as an "inventoried roadless area," and the Bureau of Land Management manages lands with wilderness potential as "wilderness study areas." These designations are not always without controversy but are critical in providing a measure of interim protection for wilderness-quality lands while Congress deliberates on further, permanent protections.

The Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act, which the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported yesterday, adjusts the boundaries of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area in Central Oregon, removing over 600 acres of land from interim protection under the Wilderness Act. The Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Areas contains cultural and historical artifacts, provides drinking water for thousands of Oregonians, and provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife species, some of which are threatened or endangered.

Proponents of this legislation argue that the release of the acres from interim protection under the wilderness study area designation is necessary. According to the proponents, the "release" language was necessary to allow Federal land managers greater flexibility in conducting hazardous fuels re-

duction projects to better protect the adjacent community, Crooked River Ranch, from the threat of wildfires. In truth, hazardous fuels reduction projects technically could have taken place under existing land designations.

Adding insult to injury, the Crooked River Fire Protection Act originally gave no direction on how the BLM should manage the released lands. In addition, the original bill fell short in addressing the wildfire concerns while allowing for the release of wilderness study area acreage from interim protection without any corresponding lands protections. This is just a lost opportunity for compromise and comity. In an attempt to provide local landowners some measure of certainty over how the released lands will be managed, I worked to clarify that the released lands will be managed in a way that improves fire resiliency and forest health, while preventing off-road recreational vehicle use, which could actually increase the risk of wildfires.

While these changes do not address the future management of the entire Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area, it does provide management direction for the released lands and pushes the BLM to meet the goals of the legislation: to promote fire resiliency and forest health. I am committed to finding a path forward for a solution for the entire wilderness study area in line with the traditions of compromise and doing things the Oregon way.

HONORING OFFICERS JAMES WHITE, WALTER MOAK AND JOSH SMITH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, flags in Mississippi are flying at half-staff as my State mourns the loss of hometown heroes. The Mississippi Highway Patrol Honor Guard stands vigil over three fallen comrades, who swore to protect and serve their communities.

Mississippi law enforcement lost three officers in 2 days.

Early Saturday morning in Brookhaven, Officer James Kevin White of Sontag and Corporal Walter Zachery Marshall Moak of Brookhaven gave their lives in the line of duty.

On Sunday, off-duty Mississippi Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Joshlin "Josh" Smith of Walnut was fatally shot near the Tippah and Alcorn county line.

James was 35. Zach was 31. Josh was 32. They leave behind children, wives, parents, and siblings, but they will be remembered not only by their families, but by grateful communities. I know this because I live in Brookhaven. These men protected my family and my neighbors, and I am so thankful for their service.

Local media in Brookhaven and Corinth have published tributes to these men, their service, and those they have left behind.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a September 29, 2018, article

from Brookhaven Daily Leader, titled, "Officers Remembered as Men of Service," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICERS REMEMBERED AS MEN OF SERVICE

(By Adam Northam)

James Kevin White wasn't about to give up the fight.

He was serving with the Mississippi National Guard in Iraq when his convoy rolled over a roadside bomb, flinging shrapnel into his knee and tearing at his face. The wounds were serious, and the Army gave Lincoln County's White a chance to go home.

"He said, 'No,'" said White's sister, Lisa White of Vicksburg. "He was still able to walk and fight, and that's what he was gonna do. He wasn't going to give up, or take an easy way out. He stayed, throughout his tour."

White, 35, came home from the war and went straight into law enforcement, and he served the community in that role for the rest of his life, until his death in the line of duty in Brookhaven Saturday morning. He'd been in the Guard since he was 17, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late J.C. White Jr., a military veteran, and serving the law was just the next step.

"He just wanted things to be right. He wanted to make a difference," his sister said. "He lived and breathed law enforcement—he'd have given me a ticket for going 5 miles over the speed limit I wasn't safe. Nobody was."

White got into law enforcement through communications, working as a dispatcher for the Mississippi Highway Patrol. He went to the academy, but the knee injury from Iraq forced him to drop out. He started a family—his boys, 8-year-old J.C. and 7-year-old Lee, go to school at Enterprise Attendance Center, their father's alma mater—and put law enforcement on hold as long as he could.

But service brought him back. He worked as a deputy for the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office from 2016-2018.

"He was a good officer, and he loved law enforcement," said Lawrence County Sheriff Lessie Butler. He remembers White's attention to detail. "His uniform had to be just about perfect," he said.

Cpl. Brandon Fortenberry with the Mississippi Highway Patrol knew White about 10 years, and the two talked often when both were out on the patrol, even when they were no longer working in the same agency.

"He was always a go-getter. He was not one to turn back, he always had a leader's mindset," Fortenberry said. "He was always the one I could trust to come back me up on those late-night shifts. I could depend on him being there for me."

White's sister said he loved his boys, loved her own children. His passing has left an emptiness in the hearts of his family, who are coming together from across the South to mourn him.

"I don't know how I feel," she said. "I don't know what I think. I just don't know."

The other Brookhaven officer lost Saturday was also raised with a heart of service.

"When Zach was growing up, we told him, 'Whatever you want to do—do whatever makes you happy,'" said Janie Stogner, owner of Janie's Pastry Shop. "We told him, 'That's what you go for.'"

What made Lincoln County's Zach Moak, 31, happy was service.

So, he went for it.

Stogner's nephew became a law enforcement officer, serving as a reserve deputy